

Response to Office Action of November 4, 2005:

Applicant acknowledges suggestions provided by Examiner in response to Applicant's request for constructive assistance. Claims submitted in Amendment B, Sept. 12, 2005, are herein amended. The Specification was not
5 amended in Amendment B, and is not further amended herein.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

10 Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A football kicking training aid consisting in combination of:

a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, said football having at least one patch attached
15 thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon, and

a flexible thimble having a lateral area, said thimble having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area of said thimble, said thimble
20 allowing a user to insert a finger into said thimble wherein a fingerpad of said finger is positioned adjacent to said pad, said pad having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch.

25 Claim 11 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating elements upon a player kicking said football.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop
30 elements of a loop and hook product.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop and hook product.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10
5 wherein said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

Claims 15-18 (cancel)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of training a player to of
~~players in football kicking~~ support a football for kicking by another player, the
method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a football, said football including two tapered ends and a
central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, said football
having at least one patch positioned on one of said tapered ends of said football,
said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener
elements thereon,

15 providing a flexible thimble, said thimble having a lateral area, a pad
covering said lateral area, said pad having a plurality of male or female mating
fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said
football end patch,

positioning said football upright on a horizontal playing surface, wherein
20 one of the tapered ends is resting on said horizontal playing surface, and the
other tapered end having the at least one patch facing upwardly,

placing said flexible thimble on a player's index finger,

supporting said football with said flexible thimble, said pad on said
flexible thimble releasably engaging said patch on said tapered end of said
25 football,

wherein said mating fastener elements positioned on said thimble
disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements on said football
tip when a player kicks said football.

~~positioning a flexible thimble on a player's index finger, said thimble~~
30 ~~having a lateral area and having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said~~

~~lateral area, said pad having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon,~~

~~positioning said pad adjacent a fingerpad of said player's said index finger,~~

5 ~~placing on a horizontal playing surface a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, and having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon complementary to~~
10 ~~said fastener elements on said pad, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,~~
~~positioning said football upright, with one upper tapered end having at least one patch and one lower end resting on a horizontal playing surface,~~
~~supporting said football by placing only said pad on said at least one~~
15 ~~patch on said upper tapered end, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,~~
~~continuing said supporting of said football until another player has kicked said football.~~

Claim 20 (cancel).

20 Claim 21 (currently amended): The device method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

 Claim 22 (currently amended): The device method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise
25 hook elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

 Claim 23 (currently amended): The device method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

Claims 24-28 (cancel).